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## Athletics

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# NEW ERA NEXT LEVEL

MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH  
TONY STUBBLEFIELD

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS  
DEWAYNE PEEVY



include Jordan Bell (Golden State), Chris Boucher (Toronto), Dillon Brooks (Memphis) and Damyean Dotson (Cleveland).

Under Stubblefield's tutelage, Chris Duarte became the first Oregon player and the first Pac-12 player to win the Jerry West Shooting Guard of the Year Award from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Duarte was also the 2021 Associated Press Pac-12 Player of the Year and named to the All-Pac-12 First Team and the Pac-12 All-Defensive team. Coach "Stubbs," as he is affectionately called, was responsible for Oregon assembling five recruiting classes that were ranked among the top 12 nationally in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021.

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**"To me, a top priority for a head coach is to provide leadership for the young men in our program and prepare them for life after basketball."**

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## A Sign of the Times

Blue Demons men's basketball looks forward to more glory days with head coach and top recruiter Tony Stubblefield at the helm

Those who remember the glory days of DePaul men's basketball—legendary coach Ray Meyer, Mark Aguirre, Terry Cummings and years of national prominence—and new fans who want to experience a new era of soaring success are about to get their wish. Tony Stubblefield, who joined DePaul as head coach this past spring after serving 11 years as assistant coach and associate head coach at the University of Oregon, is renowned for his ability to recruit top athletes.

"Relationships, recruiting and vision were everything with this hire," says DePaul Vice President and Director of Athletics DeWayne Peevy. "Tony quickly demonstrated his eagerness to begin rebuilding this program to national prominence. That, coupled with over 28 years of Division I college coaching

experience, extensive college basketball relationships, an elite history of recruiting, and his alignment with our vision for the future made him quickly rise to the top of our candidate list."

"I've had head coaching interviews before and opportunities that I didn't feel were the best fit for me," Stubblefield says. "I grew up in Clinton, Iowa, watching DePaul on WGN-TV and had a great deal of interest in the position."

DePaul is getting one of the nation's foremost recruiters, one who helped deliver NBA players Troy Brown Jr. (Chicago Bulls), Louis King (Sacramento Kings), Bol Bol (Denver Nuggets) and Payton Pritchard (Boston Celtics) to Oregon. Other former Ducks in the NBA during Stubblefield's time at Oregon

The key to his dynamic recruiting and coaching is his genuine interest in working with young people, one that he has nurtured from his college days working in summer basketball camps at Iowa State, South Dakota, Nebraska and Creighton. "I'm very sincere, and I get to know players as people," Stubblefield says. "I try to find out what makes them tick while learning all about them and their families. How can I be of service to them?"

His many years in the sport have helped him develop an impressive network from which to draw. "I've built relationships with players and coaches and sustained them all around the country," Stubblefield says. "I've done well recruiting in different areas of the country. I recruited in the highly competitive old BIG EAST at Cincinnati under Mick Cronin and brought in [future NBA players] Lance Stephenson and Sean Kilpatrick.

"To me, a top priority for a head coach is to provide leadership for the young men in our program and prepare them for life after basketball," Stubblefield says. "You become involved with their lives, make sure they get a quality education and better themselves for life."



# Briefs

## ■ Men's Tennis Makes History

DePaul was on the brink of defeat at April's BIG EAST tournament in Cayce, S.C., with Luuk Wassenaar facing quadruple match point against St. John's. The intrepid Netherlands standout somehow pulled off an incredible comeback with a 7-5, 2-6, 7-5 victory over Evan Felcher. The riveting performance catapulted DePaul to a 4-3 triumph and the first BIG EAST title in program history. It also sent Coach Matt Brothers' team to its first NCAA tournament berth, where they fell to a powerful Illinois team.

## ■ Women's Basketball Gains Postseason Honors

Lexi Held and Sonya Morris led the way with each junior being voted All-BIG EAST First Team by opposing coaches. Held was also honored as the BIG EAST Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Dee Bekelja earned All-BIG EAST Honorable Mention, and Darrione Rogers was named to the BIG EAST All-Freshman Team. In addition, Morris and Held were selected to the Division I Athletic Directors Association AAA National Scholar-Athlete Team. Held was named CoSIDA Academic All-District by the college sports information directors' national association.



Vito Tonejc



Aspasia Avgeri

## ■ Clean Sweep in BIG EAST Tennis

Vito Tonejc and Aspasia Avgeri were honored as the BIG EAST Players of the Year in men's and women's tennis—the second time in school history DePaul has swept the conference's top awards. Joining Tonejc as a unanimous choice for All-BIG EAST First Team was **Boris Spanjaard (BUS '21)**, while teammate and the tournament's Most Outstanding Player Wassenaar was selected to the All-BIG EAST Second Team. Avgeri was a unanimous pick by conference coaches for All-BIG EAST First Team while teammates Yuliya Kizelbasheva and Alina Kuzmenkova were voted onto the All-BIG EAST Second Team. Spanjaard also was also honored with the prestigious Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award and the Rafael Osuna Sportsmanship Award. The team won the ITA's Community Service Cup Award for the third consecutive year.

## ■ DePaul Dominates BIG EAST Softball Postseason Awards

As befitting the conference regular-season champions, the Blue Demons took home a league-high nine All-BIG

EAST postseason awards, including Coaching Staff of the Year for Coach Tracie Adix-Zins, Assistant Coaches Joe Yegge and Amanda Buchholz, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Abby Ramirez. Amanda Gutierrez won Defensive Player of the Year for the second time in her career and also made All-BIG EAST Second Team. Jessica Cothorn and Natalie Halvorson made All-BIG EAST First Team while joining Gutierrez on Second Team were Krista Dalgarn, Brooke Johnson, Kate Polucha and Nicole Sullivan.

## ■ Track and Field Makes Postseason Run

The Blue Demon men's and women's track and field teams qualified in eight events for the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field West Prelims in late May. Among those competing in College Station, Texas, were Kiersten Walker (400m dash), Tori Carroll (long jump, 100m dash), Mackenna Orie (shot put, discus) and Rebecca Chouinard (hammer throw) from the women's team and Kyle Mastrangeli (100m dash) and the 4x100m relay team of Mastrangeli, Brendan van Voorhis, Ashton Colaire and Adam Nelson on the men's side.